

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 8, 2000, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 8, 2000. Please enter the following amendments and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application and restricted as follows:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Group I: | Claims 1-13 and 18-26, drawn to method, classified in class 134, subclass 1.1. |
| Group II: | Claims 14-17, are drawn to method, classified in class 216, subclass 58. |
| Group III: | Claims 27-29, are drawn to apparatus, classified in class 156, subclass 345. |

The Examiner states that the inventions are distinct. Applicant elects the invention of Group I with traverse and respectfully traverses the restriction requirement. Applicant requests cancellation of claims 14-17 without prejudice and elects to pursue these claims in a divisional application. Therefore, Applicant submits that the restriction requirement regarding Group II has been obviated.

The Examiner states that inventions I and III are related as process and apparatus for its practice, but the inventions are distinct because the process as claims can be practiced by another materially different apparatus such as a plasma apparatus having a second electrode and no coil. Claim 27 (in Group III), as amended, has been broadened to recite a plasma generator instead of a coil. The Examiner has not stated that a plasma apparatus having a plasma generator is materially different from an apparatus by which the process of the invention of Group I can be practiced. Therefore, Applicant submits that the invention of Group I is not distinct from the invention of Group III, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this restriction requirement.

Applicant submits that this amendment raises no new issues and introduces no new matter. Having addressed all issues set out in this restriction requirement, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement and a favorable action on all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Jong
Registration No. 42,698
THOMASON, MOSER & PATTERSON, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77056
Telephone 713/623-4844
Facsimile 713/623-4846
Attorney for Applicant

E:\Appm\3417\PTO\RtoRR.110800.doc